

**Amendments**

***In the Specification***

Page 19, replace the paragraph beginning on line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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AX The cutter 14 of the cutoff 9 can receive motion from the crank mechanism 7 or from another unit of the cigarette rod making machine 5 in a manner not forming part of the present invention. All that counts is to ensure that the cutter 14 move in the direction of the 5 arrow 17 and at the exact speed of the cigarette rods 4, 6 while moving through the composite slot 16 provided therefor in the guides 2, 3 of the ledger 1. The reference character 12 denotes a holder or housing which receives motion (from the crank mechanism 7 or from another driving unit) to cause the cutter 14 to orbit (see the arrow 13) along a path extending in part through the composite slot 16; the cutter 14 moves through the slot 16 when its speed (in the direction indicated by the arrow 17) matches the speed of the cigarette rods 4 and 6. It is also possible to employ a cutoff with two cutters, one for each of the rods 4 and 6.

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Page 20, replace the paragraph beginning on line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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AX The ledger 1 further comprises a reciprocal support 21 which is rigid or of one piece with the guides 2, 3 and forms part of the flexible carrier 8. The latter further includes three elongated leaf springs 22, 23, 24 which carry the support 21 (at 18) and are mounted (at 31) on a stationary supporting component 32. The crank mechanism 7 has a crank arm 27 one end portion 28 of which is secured to the support 21 by a pin-shaped connector 29 and the other end portion 33 of